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Office for the General Counsel for Ocean Services
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

April 2, 2003

Dear Sir / Madam

This letter is in regard to attempts being made to install a pipeline across Long Island Sound. We strongly oppose this venture. Even though Connecticut's Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner, Arthur Rocque, denied the Islander East Pipeline Company a permit, as did the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Islander East has appealed to the Federal Secretary of Commerce to ask for an override of this denial. Connecticut's two Senators and its five House Representatives have asked Commerce to uphold the CT DEP decision and stop this project to preserve the Sound.

The purpose for the pipeline is stated to be Long Island's need for additional gas. What we have learned is that Islander East has four customers: two power plants, (one never to be built), the other not in need of more gas. The other two are with KeySpan's subsidiary gas distribution systems, (largest distributor in Northeast), and a 50% investor in Islander East. We have also learned that KeySpan is luring new customers for natural gas by giving away free gas boilers and pool heaters.

Is this justification for devastating the complex seafloor ecosystem of the Sound by destroying what has taken decades to develop? For the sake of corporate profiteering, is this justification for further polluting water quality of the Sound which is still fragile after fifteen years of attempts to clean it up? Must a life-giving environment which supports millions of humans and other creatures be sacrificed for the profit of one or two billion dollar corporations? We think not.

We ask you to deny the appeal of Islander East to install a cross-Sound pipeline and to respect the decision of the CT DEP and the Army Corps of Engineers.
Thank you for considering this request from concerned citizens.

Sincerely,

Sister Suzanne Brazauskas, CSJ
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Advocacy Coordinator

Sister Mary Alice Synkewicz, RSM
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Daughters of the Holy Spirit * Daughters of Mary of the Immaculate Conception * Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambery *
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